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WARHAMMER® MONTHLY

BLOODQUEST

THE BLACK CRUSADE BEGINS!

#54

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Wow is it April already? Time flies when you're as busy the Black Library is at the moment. Not only are we still putting out Warhammer Monthly, Inferno! and two storming novels a month but we're adding to our repertoire all the time with artbooks, mini-series, posters, T-shirts and a whole slew of other cool products. And on top of all this convention season is looming up fast. By the time you read this, I'll be just about to enjoy some good old-fashioned Scottish hospitality at Caledonian Conflict in Edinburgh and will be already gearing up for Black Library day on May 26 and Comics 2002 taking place in Bristol the following weekend. If you're out and about at any of these events then please come up and say hi, we're always pleased to meet our readers and we really do value your feedback and opinions. Of course, if you can't make it along to any of these events then there's always Games Day at the Birmingham National Indoor Arena in September.

See you there!

CHRISTIAN DUNN

BLOODQUEST

In the midst of the devastation of a Black Crusade, two warriors journey through the carnage on a new Bloodquest.

DARKBLADE

The warring sides pause for breath, while a traitor worms his way back into the heart of Hag Graef.

KAL JERICO

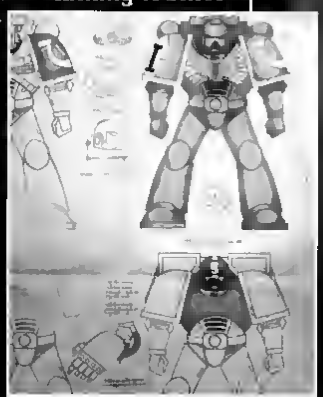
In a Downhive card-game, Kal Jerico's run of luck is about to turn distinctly homicidal.

TITAN

From the depths of Vector 77, what manner of beast is this that even the God-Machines of the Legio Titanicus must fear it?

DISPATCHES:

Later this year the Black Library will be releasing the fifth in its immensely popular art book range, *Insignium Astortes*. Following in the footsteps of previous releases such as *The Inquisitor Sketchbook* and *The Face of Battle*, this plush, oversized, full colour book will be an in depth exposition of Space Marine markings and regalia. The hooded, and slightly deformed acolytes of the Black Library are still putting the finishing touches to this glorious tome, but while they were busy comparing their numerous strange growths, we managed to smuggle out this sneak preview.



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BLACK CRUSADE THE EYE OF TERROR OPENING TO UNLEASH THE LEGIONS OF CHAOS UPON THE WORLDS OF THE GALAXY
ALREADY THE IMPERIUM KNOWS THAT IT IS COMING PSYKERS PICK UP WARP-CARRIED DAEMON-WHISPERS OF THE COMING CATASTROPHE THE HIGH LORDS OF TERRA MEET IN COUNCIL AND ISSUE THEIR COMMANDS
VAST BATTLEFLEETS ASSEMBLE ARMIES NUMBERING BILLIONS OF TROOPS ARE MUSTERED THE SLOW, ARDUOUS TASK OF ROUSING THE FULL MILITARY MIGHT OF THE IMPERIUM OF MANKIND BEGINS.

BLOODQUEST III

1. The Daemon's Mark

SCRIPT: GORDON RENNIE
ART: COLIN MACNEIL
LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

FOR SOME WORLDS IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE
SMALLER VANGUARD FORCES ARE ALREADY AT WORK PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE COMING CRUSADE
THE WORLD OF COLCHIS IS JUST ONE WORLD TO HAVE BEEN VISITED BY ONE OF THESE ADVANCE FORCES
NOW LYSANDER AND CLOTEN COME AFTER, SEEKING EVIDENCE THAT THIS DESTRUCTION IS THE WORK OF THE ARMIES OF ONE PARTICULAR DAEMON-LORD—
THAT IS WHAT THEY CAME TO SEEK, AND THAT IS WHAT THEY FIND.

THEY FOLLOW THE DAEMON LEGION'S TRAIL USING WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO GET THEM FROM WORLD TO WORLD.
SIGNING ON AS *MEN-AT-ARMS* GUARDING IMPERIUM MERCHANT SHIPS FROM PIRATE ATTACK.
JOINING THE RETINUE OF A *ROGUE TRADER EXPLORATOR EXPEDITION*.
OR TRAVELLING INCOGNITO AMONGST THE ENDLESS *PILGRIM CONVOYS* LINKING TOGETHER THE HOLY SHRINE WORLDS OF THE IMPERIUM.

WHEREVER THEY GO HOWEVER THEY GET THERE, THEY FIND MORE EVIDENCE OF WHAT THEY ARE SEEKING

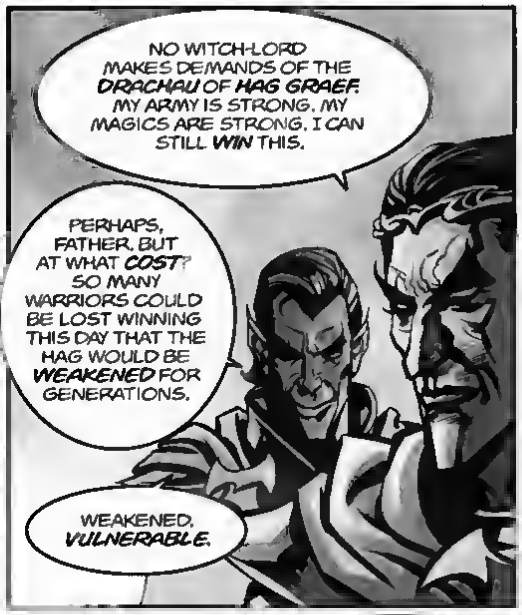
EACH FIND BRINGS THEM CLOSER TO THAT WHICH THEY ARE SEEKING
VANDIRE'S OATH!
A FITY I DIDN'T BARGAIN HARDER AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR VOYAGE BLOOD ANGEL
I WOULD HAVE DEMANDED A *HIGHER FEE* FOR YOUR PASSAGE, HAD I KNOWN IT WOULD BE THIS MUCH TROUBLE
YOU'LL BE PAID, PIRATE AND SOON ENOUGH
THE DESTINATION COURSES AND CARGO MANIFESTS OF THE LAST FEW TRADER SHIP CONVOYS WE TRAVELLED WITH, THE INFORMATION HERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU A VERY WEALTHY MAN
A MORE THAN GENEROUS FEE FOR THE PRICE OF A *ONE-WAY PASSAGE*
ONE-WAY? AYE, YOU'RE RIGHT ENOUGH THERE FRIEND. I HAD HEARD THOSE OF YOUR KIND WERE ALL *MAD*. NOW I *KNOW* IT TO BE TRUE

AFTER ALL. WHO BUT A MADMAN WOULD SEEK PASSAGE TO A DOOMED WORLD FROM WHICH EVERYONE ELSE IS NOW TRYING TO ESCAPE!
LAST CHANCE BLOOD ANGELS. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK AND THERE'S NO SHAME IN TURNING AWAY FROM CERTAIN DEATH.
IF YOU WISH IT, THERE'S ALWAYS A PLACE HERE AMONG MY OWN CREW FOR TWO WARRIORS OF YOUR WORTH
KEEP YOUR COURSE PIRATE. MY BROTHER AND I KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING

WE REJOICE, FOR NOW AT LAST OUR SEARCH IS OVER.
TO BE CONTINUED

WITCH-LORD KERNU KARA'S BLACK HOSTS SURROUND US, POISED TO FALL UPON OUR BELOVED HAG LIKE HUNGRY WOLVES.
AN HOUR PERHAPS... NO MORE THAN TWO... AND THE ARMIES OF THE BLACK ARK WILL UNLEASH THEIR FINAL ASSAULT.
DARKBLADE
BOOK III
Throne of Blood
Part Eleven
Script: Dan Abnett Art: Kev Hopgood

SO, LORD DRACHAU... FATHER... I THINK IT'S TIME FOR AN ANSWER.
YOU CAN AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED AT A STROKE. GIVE THE WITCH-LORD WHAT HE WANTS, AND YOU CAN BROKER UNCONDITIONAL PEACE BETWEEN HAG GRAEF AND NAGGOR.


NO WITCH-LORD MAKES DEMANDS OF THE DRACHAU OF HAG GRAEF. MY ARMY IS STRONG. MY MAGICS ARE STRONG. I CAN STILL WIN THIS.
PERHAPS, FATHER. BUT AT WHAT COST? SO MANY WARRIORS COULD BE LOST WINNING THIS DAY THAT THE HAG WOULD BE WEAKENED FOR GENERATIONS.
WEAKENED. VULNERABLE.

YOU HOLD THE FUTURE OF HAG GRAEF IN YOUR HAND, TODAY AND TOMORROW. THIS WAR... AND THE NEXT.
IT SITS ILL WITH ME THAT MY OWN SON COMES HERE AS AN EMISSARY OF THE FOE.

THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO QUICK TO BANISH ME, FATHER.
I AGREED TO BE NAGGOR'S ENVOY BECAUSE I STILL CARE ABOUT THE HAG. I WOULD NOT SEE IT FALL. I WOULD NOT SEE IT CRIPPLED.
GIVE KERNU KARA WHAT HE WANTS.

GIVE HIM MALUS DARKBLADE.
THIS FEELS LIKE ANOTHER NAGGOR TRICK, ELDIRE WARNED ME, DARKBLADE HAS ALREADY BEEN CURSED BY THEIR MAGIC. I-
NOK NOK
ENTER!
YOU SUMMONED ME, LORD DRACHAU.
I DID. LEAVE US, GUARDS.
MALUS.
SEVERIN. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE LICKING THE UNDERSIDE OF ROCKS SOMEWHERE?
DARKBLADE. THROUGH MY...SON...THE WITCH-LORD HAS OFFERED TERMS.
THEY WILL WITHDRAW, IF I OFFER THEM ONE PRIZE.
THAT BEING?

THE DRUCHII THEY CLAIM STOLE THE ORB OF MALKIN AND SLEW THE WITCH-LORD BALNETH BALE THE DRUCHII WHO TRIGGERED THIS BLOOD-FUED.
YOU.
NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?
NOT TO YOU
THEIR CLAIMS ARE LIES, LORD.
BUT IF I CAN SAVE THE HAG BY OFFERING MY LIFE TO THE BEASTS OF NAGGOR, I WILL DO IT
GET BACK TO YOUR WITCH-LORD, SEVERIN. TELL HIM MY ANSWER.
TELL HIM I WILL NOT GIVE UP A SOUL AS NOBLE AS MALUS DARKBLADE FOR HIS SPORT
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT...
KRA-TISH-H!
DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO MOVE. THE SYRTH VAPOUR HAS PARALYSED YOU BOTH.
WHAT A TRAGEDY, THEY WILL SAY...

...CONFRONTED BY THE TRUTH OF HIS GUILT, MALUS DARKBLADE FLEW INTO A RAGE...
...AND SLEW THE BELOVED DRACHAU OF HAG GRAEF.
SHCHOKKK!
THANK GOODNESS THE DRACHAU'S LOYAL SON...AND HEIR...WAS PRESENT...
...TO SWIFTLY AVENGE THE BLOODY DEED.
KERNU KARA HAS PROMISED ME THE THRONE OF HAG GRAEF IF I BRING HIM YOUR HEAD.
SO, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

SHH...TNCC!
HOW--?
THERE...IS MAGIC IN ME...DAEMON MAGIC...
MAGIC ENOUGH...TO SHRUG OFF YOUR EVIL VAPOUR.
MORE... DAMN MAGIC... THAN YOU CAN DEAL WITH!
YAAH!

KCHINCC!
SHANG!
HWWSSHH!
KLINCC!
CHINCC!
YOU MAY HAVE MAGIC, DARKBLADE, BUT THE VAPOUR'S IN YOUR BLOOD, SLOWING YOU DOWN...
KRINC!

AND YOU HEAR THAT? THAT DIN?
"THE HOSTS OF THE BLACK ARK CHARGE ONTO THE FIELD. THE FINAL ASSAULT HAS BEGUN."
THEN WE'D BETTER FINISH THIS, HADN'T WE?
NEXT
Throne of Blood

THE SUMP HOLE, NOTORIOUS DRINKING DEN AND FAVOURED HAUNT OF ONE KAL JERICO, UNDERHIVE BOUNTY HUNTER FOR HIRE-
KAL JERICO IN KILLING TIME
..FOUR EMPERORS HIGH. MY POT, I THINK.
NOT SO FAST, JERICO.
YOU'VE BEEN WINNING ALL NIGHT YOU ASK ME, THAT MEANS EITHER YOU'RE CHEATING OR YOU'RE SOME KIND OF MUTANT FREAK WHO'S BEEN USING WYRD POWERS TO BEWITCH US
SO WHAT'S IT TO BE? GAMBLING CHEATS WE JUST SHOOT, MUTANT FREAKS WE HAND OVER TO THE REDEMPTIONISTS TO BURN AT THE STAKE.
HEY, ANYONE HEAR THAT?
KKKKKKKKKKKK
SOUNDS LIKE A HIVEQUAKE. MAYBE A TWO-POINTER.
TWO-POINTER, MY SCAWING ASH. MORE LIKE A THREE OR EVEN A FOUR.
KKKKKKKKKKKKK
KKKK KRASH!
JERICO!!!

SCRIPT: GORDON RENNIE • ART: PAUL DAVIDSON • LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

JERICO... KILL KAL JERICO!!!

RAAAAGH!!! MUST KILL JERICO!!!
AK!
BADAM!
SUMP HOLE
BAR
BLAM!
SPLATCH!
BK-RUNCH!
SUMP HOLE
BAR
SMASH! KILL!
HELMAWR'S HOLY RUMP, KAL...
WHAT IS THAT THING, AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT US INTO THIS TIME!

REMARKABLE. AND QUITE APPALLING. WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?
A CHRONO-GLADIATOR
ANOTHER MECHANICUS-CREATED MONSTROSITY. THEIR LIFE-SPANS ARE DETERMINED BY A PRE-SET SELF-DESTRUCT PROGRAM. THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN EXTEND WHAT LIMITED TIME THEY HAVE IS BY KILLING.
EACH BATTLE THEY WIN MOVES THE TIMER A FRACTION ON THE SELF DESTRUCT DEADLINE. SO THEY'RE DRIVEN TO KILL IN ORDER TO KEEP ON LIVING
THEY'RE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, BUT I THINK THE EFFORT HAS BEEN WORTH IT.
AFTER ALL, OLD FRIEND, YOU SAID YOU WANTED A TEST WHICH WOULD PUT MY CANDIDATE'S ABILITIES FULLY TO THE TEST.
ZAK!
NO POINT IN THIS THING KILLING BOTH OF US, SCABBS, AND IT SEEMS TO BE ME IT'S AFTER..
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IF I LET IT COME AFTER ME, THEN THAT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT AND-
ZAK!
ZAK!
SCABBS..?

SCABBS-!
ROTTEN LITTLE SCAWER, COULDN'T HE TELL I ONLY SAID IT TO SOUND NOBLE! I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!
SEE? TYPICAL HIVE-TRASH. NO STOMACH FOR A REAL FIGHT.
PATIENCE, OLD FRIEND.
REMEMBER, CUNNING AND RESOURCEFULNESS RUN IN THE BLOODLINE, AND I THINK HE'S GOT A TRICK OR TWO IN MIND.
AH YES, AN ENERGY CONDUIT. CLEVER BOY, KAL.

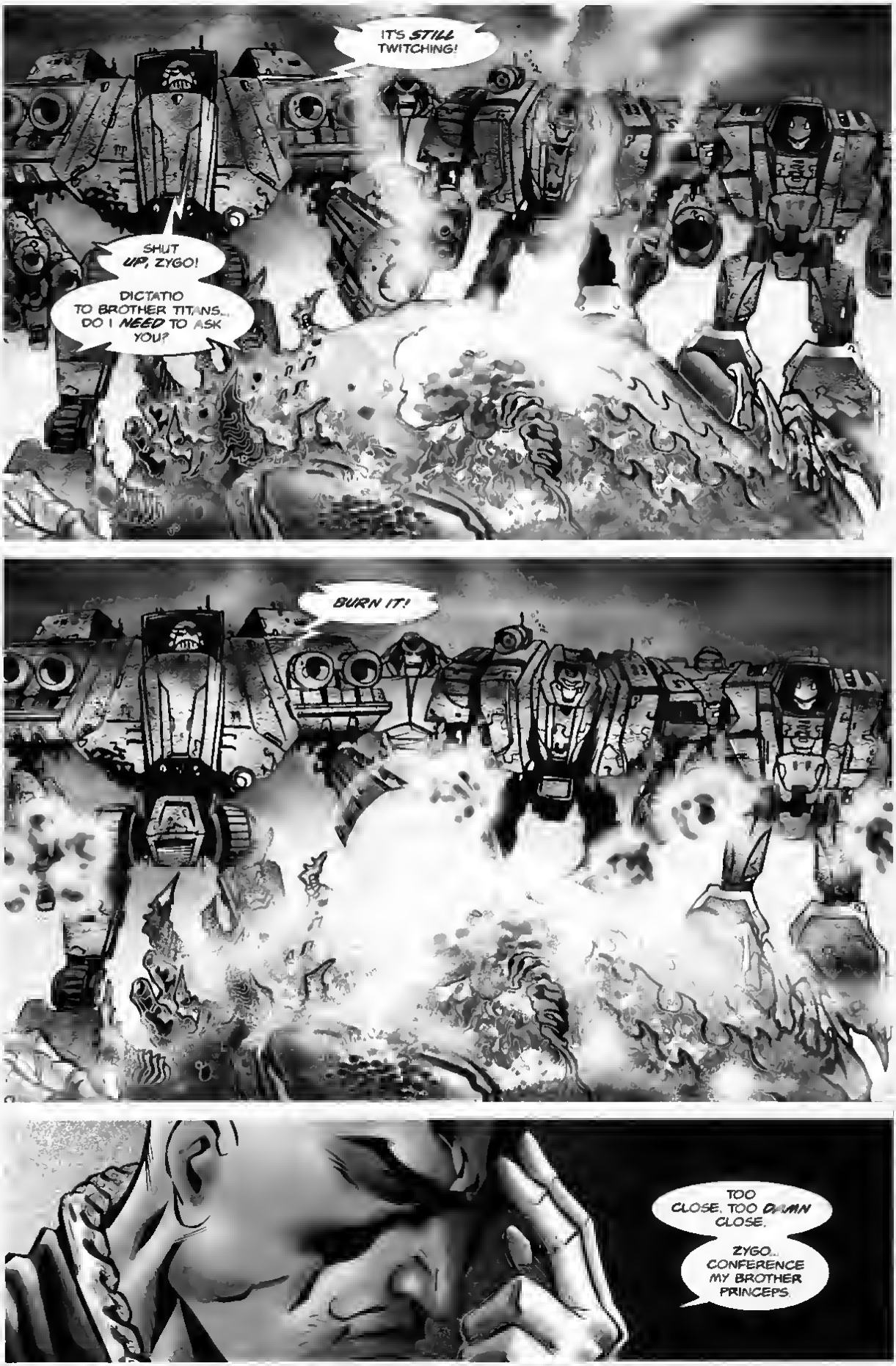
KILL JERICO... LIVE LONGER...
KILL JERICO... LIVE LONGER...
ANCIENT ENERGY CONDUITS, RUNNING UP THE FULL LENGTH OF THE HIVE AND PROVIDING THE CITY WITH VITAL POWER RESOURCES
'HNNNGF'
SHKRROOM
...SUPER-HEATED GEO-THERMAL ENERGY PUMPED UP FROM THE PLANET'S MOLTEN CORE!

ENJOY THE SPECTACLE? SORRY IF THE END RESULT WASN'T QUITE WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME. BUT NEXT TIME COME AND TRY AND DO THE JOB YOURSELF INSTEAD OF SENDING THE HIRED HELP
ZAK
HMMM RESOURCEFUL, IF IMPUDENT. PERHAPS HE'LL DO AFTER ALL.
SURELY YOU'VE LEARNED BY NOW NEVER TO DOUBT ME? SEE TO IT THAT HE'S CAPTURED AS SOON AS CAN BE ARRANGED AND BROUGHT TO ME HERE UPHIVE.
AND BE GENTLE WITH HIM. HE IS FAMILY, AFTER ALL.
AS YOU WISH, MADAME-INQUISITOR JERICO...
THE END

STABILISERS! STABILISERS! BRACE FOR IMPACT!
FIRE CONTROL TO ME! NOW, NALLEN! IN THE NAME OF THE GOD-EMPEROR, GIVE ME FIRE CONTROL!
TITAN
GOLD STEEL
NOW!

SCRIPT: DAN ABNETT • ART: ANTHONY WILLIAMS • LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

DAEMON.
IN THIS NEST OF DAEMONS. THIS VECTOR ??.
AND BUT FOR THE GRACE OF THE GOD-EMPEROR, IT WOULD HAVE KILLED US


IT'S STILL TWITCHING!
SHUT UP, ZYGO!
DICTATIO TO BROTHER TITANS... DO I NEED TO ASK YOU?
BURN IT!
TOO CLOSE. TOO DAMN CLOSE.
ZYGO... CONFERENCE MY BROTHER PRINCEPS.

WHAT WAS IT?
DAEMON-THING!
THIS PLACE IS CURSED!
IT DIDN'T SHOW ON THE SENSORS!
CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!
IS THAT WHAT GNAWED IMPERIUS EXCELSIOR TO DEATH?
ENOUGH.
ENOUGH!
IT WAS A DAEMON. THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T SEE IT UNTIL IT WAS ON US
EVEN SO BELLADON? ERADICUS? WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU?
BY YOUR SIDE, HEKATE. YOU YOURSELF HAD CHIDED ME TO WATCH MY SPREAD OF FIRE WHEN SO MANY BROTHER TITANS WERE MOVING TOGETHER
SO I DID SO I DID. MY APOLOGIES, PRINCEPS VALLARD.
BROTHERS... THIS IS INDEED A CURSED PLACE.
WE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE SITE OF AN ATOMIC DETONATION
IT IS NOT IT IS A WARP-HOLE. A RUPTURE IN THE IMMATEREUM.
A NEST OF DAEMONS.

WE ADVANCE AGAIN
ONLY AWARE OF WHAT WE CAN OURSELVES SEE WE CAN'T TRUST THE SCOPES
WE KNOW THERE MUST BE MORE DAEMON THINGS OUT HERE THAT'S WHY WE TITANS WERE ORDERED FORWARD. TO CLEANSE THIS PLACE.
ONLY GOD-MACHINES LIKE US DARE VENTURE HERE
AND EVEN THEN, WE ARE JUST BRITTLE, HELPLESS THINGS BEFORE THE ABOMINATION
EEARRRGHHH!

DAEMON! DAEMON! IT HAS ERADICUS!
GOD EMPEROR!
BLAST IT, MODERATI! BLAST IT!
IMPERIUS ERADICUS IS IN THE LINE OF FIRE, SIR!
ERADICUS IS DEAD! BLAST IT!
MAY THE EMPEROR FORGIVE ME. THIS IS A MERCY KILLING.

JUST NINE OF US LEFT NOW. ORDINARILY, ENOUGH POWER TO CONQUER A WORLD.
BUT HERE, VECTOR 77 MAKES US FEEL LIKE LIGHT INFANTRY.
TYYL TO ALL PRINCEPS! THAT GLOW!
WHAT IS IT?
PRINCEPS TYYL OF IMPERATOR FULCRAE ASKS THE QUESTION WE'VE ALL BEEN HOLDING BACK.
WHAT IS THAT SICKLY LIGHT AT THE HEART OF GROUND ZERO?
IT'S THE NEST. THE HEART OF IT. THE WARP-HOLE ITSELF.
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DESTROY
SO MAY THE GOD-EMPEROR OF MANKIND GIVE US STRENGTH AND BREATH ENOUGH TO DO IT
NEXT GUNS AGAINST THE WARP.

NEW FROM THE BLACK LIBRARY

Great news for all fans of Ephrael Stern, the first book of Daemonifuge has returned. Daemonifuge: The Screaming Cage, written and drawn by the exceptional Kev Walker, has been re-collected and re-edited into a three issue mini-series which includes eight pages unpublished in its original graphic novel, while issue two (available as you read this) has a spectacular new Kev Walker cover never used in Warhammer Monthly itself. Daemonifuge: The Screaming Cage is available through all good comic stores or you can check your local Games Workshop Mail Order to see if they have it in stock.

To celebrate Ephrael Stern's return we're including as one of our first offers available only to Warhammer Monthly subscribers a special ultra-limited edition Daemonifuge t-shirt. Check out the new subscription offer earlier in this issue for details on how to subscribe.

Also out this month is the all-Gaunt's Ghost Inferno! special which includes new fiction from Dan Abnett, a detailed guide to the Tanith First-and-Only, the 'lost' Gaunt's Ghosts story and new comic action from Dan and Paul 'Mordheim' Jeacock.

www.blacklibrary.co.uk

INCOMING

✦

✦✦ **In WHM 47 you mentioned plans for Warhammer Warped Visions and I am writing to tell you what I think of the idea: I strongly object to mixing Warhammer and 40K. WHM is supposed to enrich the background of Warhammer and Warhammer 40,000 so any transplantation of characters into worlds thousands of years apart is contrary to the background continuity and pretty dodgy.**

Warhammer Warped Visions may be great as a one-off or as an occasional strip but I think it would be a waste of time doing something like this on a regular basis. Space is limited in the pages of WHM and I'd rather see more serious strips or spin-off series as you did for the Redeemer.

Thanks for your time & keep up the excellent work!

✦✦ **Oliver Martin – Switzerland**

✦

✦

✦✦ Fear not, Brother Martin, the Warhammer Warped Visions concept was never intended to transplant Warhammer 40,000 characters into the fantasy battle universe and vice versa (though the idea of taking Imperius Dictatio in the Chaos Wastes and giving Gutspew a good thumping IS appealing). Instead you're going to see some very different takes on many of your favourite characters and it's all happening in a very special giant-sized issue this December. Though beware; Tzeentch's corrupting influence is going to ooze all over it. You have been warned! ✦

WIN A YEAR OF MAYHEM COMPETITION WINNERS

Back in issue 50 you may remember we ran a competition to win an entire year's worth of Black Library products. Despite multiple entires from a certain Mr G. Gutspew we're pleased to announce the winners.

Runners Up:

Kal Jerico Bust – Christopher Budas, Glasgow, Scotland.

Darkblade Statue – Guido Kreemers, Hasselt, Belgium.

and the Grand Prize winner is:..

Joe Gallipeau, Ontario, Canada.

Congratulations, Joe!

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NEXT ISSUE:
THE CARNAGE REACHES A CLIMAX
AS DARKBLADE BOOK III COMES TO AN END!

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